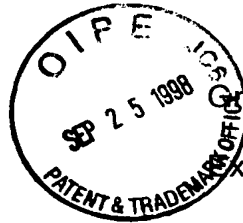


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
In re PATENT APPLICATION of  
**KENNETH J. SPEAR, et al.**

Serial No. 08/982,694

Filed: December 2, 1997

Title: HOSE STORAGE DEVICE



Group Art Unit: 3642

Examiner: Unknown

#12/B  
A. W. W. W.  
5/3/99

\* \* \* \* \*

September 25, 1998

RECEIVED  
OCT 22 1998

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, DC 20231

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Publishing Division

FEB 26 1999

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NOV 24 1998  
Group 3700

Sir:

Prior to the examination of this application, please enter the following  
amendments and consider the following remarks.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, before line 1, please insert --The present application claims  
priority benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/043,968, filed April 22,  
1997, and U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/032,219, filed December 2,  
1996.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add the following new claims:

--24. (New) A hose storage device as defined in claim 1, wherein said  
supporting frame structure has ridges defining said upwardly facing supporting  
surfaces, said ridges being positioned such that downwardly facing stacking